AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT, PRICES CURRENT.

" *O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint*
" *Agricolas.*" . . . . . VIRG.

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AGRICULTURE.

REMARKS
ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF CATTLE, &c.

In a Letter to Sir John Saunders Sebright, Bart. M. P. by Mr. John Wilkinson, of Lenton, near Nottingham.

Let each succeeding race employ your care,
Distinguish which to slaughter, which to spare;
Mark well the lineage,—let the purest make,
From purest blood, its just proportions take.

(Continued from our last.)

With respect to the value of different breeds as milkers only, some persons have attended solely to the quantity of milk given by each cow, while others have had regard only to the quality. But it is certain that this value must depend on the quantity and quality jointly, yielded from a given qauntity of food * By a given quantity of food is to be understood, not merely the same weight, but the same weight of the same kind and quality also; and in any experiment, it ought moreover to be given under similar circumstances. The time too allowed for an experiment of this nature ought to be at least a whole year; because some breeds will give a great quantity of milk just after calving, but will not yield that quantity for any considerable time; while others will not give so great a quantity at first, but, will approximate to it much longer. As to the number of the cows, it need by no means be the same in two or more cases of trial; but the proper number for the consumption of the proposed quantity of food. For the question is not, whether the produce of so many of one breed, be more valuable than the produce of the same number of any other; but what will be the value of the produce afforded by a certain quantity of food, when bestowed on the one, compared with the value of the produce afforded by the same quantity of the same kind of food, when bestowed on any other; remaining circumstances being as similar as possible.

In comparing the value of any one breed with the value of any other, in reference to the shambles, it is very evident, that the placing out certain quantities of different kinds to feed, and comparing the increase of weight in each case with the quantity of food consumed, will never determine the question. Because, here the question is not which have paid the best for a certain period, but which have paid the best during the whole course of their lives; the different breeds being killed at that particular age which will give to them respectively the maximum of profit. That there is a certain age which is the most profitable for disposing of one kind; but another age, and far different, the most profitable for another, is a circumstance well known to every practical farmer.—Some breeds cannot easily be made fat till they are three or four years old; while others are capable of being so at any age we may think proper. I believe the most profitable age for disposing of fat cattle of the improved short horned breed, is from two to three years old, according to circumstances at the time of sale. In all experiments of this nature, there are many and great difficulties to encounter in order to render the comparisons just; we may, however, proceed with a sufficient degree of accuracy to determine what breeds are unquestionably the best; and the greater excellence has always been yielded to those which arrive at the earliest maturity.

I now come to the descent or lineage of animals; and so vast is the importance of this part of my subject, that I thought I could not do better than notice it in the *title-page* itself And for the same reason also, I may be allowed to quote your own words, which are so apposite to my present purpose, and so perspicuous in the delineation of the truth you wish to inculcate; a truth which can never be too fully impressed on the minds of those who are engaged in the improvement of stock. They are as follows: " Regard should not only be paid to the qualities apparent in animals selected for breeding, but to those which have prevailed in the race from which they are descended, as they will always show themselves, sooner or later, in the progeny: it is for this reason that we should not breed from an animal, however excellent, unless we can ascertain it to be what is called *well-bred*; that is, descended from a race of ancestors, who have, through several generations, possessed, in a high degree, the properties which it is our object to obtain." This observation of yours, sir, appears to me so comprehensive, so clear, and yet at the same time so concise, that I dare not attempt either to add or to take from it; I will only endeavour to illustrate it by some familiar example, and as many are more conversant with the colour of animals than the excellence of their shapes, it may not be amiss to refer to the former. Suppose, then, a number of pure Devon cows to be crossed with a breed of perfectly white Bulls; in this case it is probable that some of the calves would be perfectly red, others white, and the greater part would partake of these colours jointly. If we were now to take the red heifers produced by this cross, and put them to a Devon bull, it would not be a matter of any great surprise, if some of their progeny, though sprung from red parents, should be perfectly white, and still less, that several should be mixed with this colour; though it would not by any means be so probable as in the former instance. And were we thus to proceed through several generations, this white colour would be less and less apparent in the breed, but would most probably occasionally shew itself in some individual or other If on the other hand, we were to breed from pure Devons only, that is from those that have been carefully bred for a great length of time, we should reasonably expect their offspring to be of the same colour with the parents themselves; while any deviation from this, would be looked upon as one of those changes, which nature sometimes produces out of the common course of things. And what has here been asserted of colour, is equally applicable to peculiarity of form, or quality of flesh.

When a breed is once brought to that degree of perfection it is capable of, the same care must be used in the continuance, as was shown in the formation itself; or as you have justly observed, " what has been produced by art, must be continued by the same means." For, though animals that are themselves good, and have also been descended from a long race of valuable progenitors, are by no means likely to produce, even in a single instance, a bad offspring; yet I think it will no more be contended, that every animal produced by the same parents, is precisely of the same value, than that the red colour in the Devon cattle is precisely of the same shade in each individual, or that the horns of the Lancashire are exactly of the same length. It has already been observed indeed, that there is a *strong* tendency for *like to produce like*, that there is a *slight* tendency to change, and that nature, moreover, *sometimes* deviates from her common course. If however, such a deviation takes place, it may be continued; as experience teaches both in the animal and vegetable kingdom. And hence will very clearly follow, the impropriety of keeping a bad animal, on pretence that it is well descended; an error which some Breeders have fallen into, if not in judgment, at least in practice. Hence also it will appear, that this defective kind of animal of which I have been just speaking, is generally produced from some mixture of impure blood, or that the breed has been declining through several generations; in either of which cases it can never be said to be well descended. For, in order that an animal may be well bred, it is not sufficient that we are able to trace it to parents, the most perfect of their kind; but every intermediate gradation ought also to be good. It will appear too, from what has been advanced on the formation, the descent, and continuance of improved stock, that no animal can be depended upon for breeding, but what is in itself *good*, and is moreover *well bred* in the *strictest sense* of the words.

It may not be improper to observe, both with respect to the improvement and the decline of breeds, that they are in general gradual, and proceed but slowly through several generations. And hence, it is not at all inconsistent to say, that "animals have *at length* been produced very unlike their original stock;" and yet, at the same time, that there is in nature a strong tendency for "like to produce like." But this remark, respecting the slowness of change, refers to distinct breeds, and also where any particular family is not crossed with others that are much better or much worse of the same kind; nor does it include adventitious circumstances, as pasturage, climate, &c. And it is on account of this slowness of procedure, that so many, who have originally engaged in the improvement of stock have been obliged to expend a considerable sum of money before they could obtain any material advantage; while those who have purchased of that stock, when improved, have reaped an immediate, and even a large profit.

With respect to crossing distinct breeds; it may be proper to divide the subject into one or two separate heads. And first, as to what may reasonably be expected from such a union. Here you remark, sir, that "you do not, by any means, approve of mixing two distinct breeds, with the view of uniting the valuable properties of both." And from what follows, I conclude the import of the words to be, with the view of uniting these properties in the full perfection, in which they existed separately in each. We have occasionally been amused with such pretensions, yet he who is a careful observer of facts, will scarcely, I think, be inclined to credit them. I have seen much of the nature of crossing, for reasons that I shall afterwards mention, but never yet saw the accomplishment of an object so desirable, as the full attainment of the good properties in each, without any mixture, of the bad. Indeed it must be obvious to every man of sense, that there is no more reason to expect a perfect union of the former, rather than of the latter. The one are just as likely to be inherited as the other and for the very same reason. The thing generally to be expected from mixing the breeds of animals, possessing properties differing in degree, is such an union of those properties in the progeny, that they may be greater than in the ancestry on the one side, but less than in that of the other: though it is also true, as you have observed, and as I have before hinted, that the offspring will sometimes nearly resemble

* This I think is so obvious, that I need not attempt to explain the fact itself; but only mention after what manner experiments ought to be made. Hence too it very clearly follows, that the determining of what quantity of cream is produced from a given quantity of milk, will never ascertain the relative value of different breeds as milkers. This rule indeed is defective on its own principles, as it will by no means ascertain even the quality; for the cream of some cows is far richer than that of others, and will yield a much greater proportion of butter.

one parent only. In crossing the cart mare with a blood-horse, no man expects to obtain from the produce, the strength of the former with the speed of the latter; but an animal, that is swifter than the cart horse, yet incapable of drawing so great a burthen. It does not follow, however, that no cross can be useful; it may be very much so. For instance, there are many situations, which will readily suggest themselves to the mind, where an animal with less speed, or less strength, than such a one as might reasonably be expected from the cross in the foregoing example, would by no means be so useful; and yet, where more of either speed or strength, would be almost, if not altogether unnecessary. Again, it occasionally happens, that a breed of cattle which is possessed of the greatest excellence, may be too large for the pasturage of a particular situation; and yet a cross from these might obtain a very considerable advantage. Or a breed, which is unprofitable on the whole, is sometimes kept for the sake of a particular quality, which it possesses in so high a degree, that it would scarcely be the worse, if this quality were somewhat diminished. And this I think is the case with the Alderney cow; a breed which is kept by some of the nobility and gentry, entirely on account of the richness of the cream; but yet, the quantity of milk afforded by them is so small, as to make them extremely unprofitable, even as milkers. I have frequently known this breed to be crossed however by a well bred short horned bull, the produce are generally much better milkers than the Alderneys; are more beautiful in their appearance, as not being so raw-boned; and frequently come to a very considerable weight. It will be inferred from what has been already said, and it is an inference which I have seen supported by numerous examples; that where one breed is inferior to another in each individual point, the worse will generally be improved by the better, not partially, but altogether. But where distinct breeds possess their several advantages in different ways, to expect a full and complete union of the good qualities of each, without any mixture of the bad, is to expect a result, contrary to the whole analogy of nature.

I shall inquire secondly, whether a cross from two distinct breeds can be *obtained* and *continued*, so as to unite in almost an equal proportion, the properties of both; and I am fully of an opinion that this can be accomplished. The former part of the question has, I think, been already answered: and I have seen the latter effected between the long and short horned cattle. In this neighbourhood there were many dairies of long horned cows, descended from the stock of the late Mr Bakewell; and it was not at all surprising, that the possessors of such stock should be much prejudiced in their favour, on account of the eminence of so great a breeder. When however the improved short horned cattle began to make such rapid strides as they did about thirty years ago; many were willing to try a cross from them, but were not willing to proceed further for the present. This cross being extremely approved of, they rejected such as inclined too much after the one or the other; and continuing to breed from those that partook of the mean, a breed, usually called half horned ones, was at length established; as well known by their particular characteristics, as either of the former.

There is another mode of crossing, which has frequently been attended with the greatest advantage for the improvement of inferior breeds; which is, by crossing the females of the worse with the males of the better, and their produce again in the same manner, through several succeeding generations. By this method, the blood of the former will be more and more exhausted, and a breed at length obtained nearly resembling the latter;† according to the example you have given of Merino—Ryeland Sheep. Since however, the blood of the former, though less and less in each succeeding generation, can never entirely be taken away; it will follow that the value of the produce at any particular time, must depend partly on the value of the females from whence the cross originally descended. I mentioned under the last head, a cross introduced by many in this neighbourhood, between the Long and Short Horned Cattle, partaking in nearly an equal proportion of the properties of both. But afterwards, when the improved Short Horns had gained so complete an ascendancy over the Long, and prejudice in favour of the latter, was borne down by experience; this cross, as well as the remaining Long Horned Cows, were put to bulls of the former description, and their produce again, through many generations; the result of which agrees with my present position; namely, that the future crosses, at length, so nearly resembled the Short Horned Cattle, as scarcely to be distinguished from them. The same thing has been effected by crossing Scot's in like manner; and I doubt not, might be from any breeds whatever.

It may be observed generally, and lastly, that no arguments against the system of crossing can be drawn from the nature‡ of the case; because it is *highly probable* that the various breeds of Cattle, descended originally from one common stock; and it is *absolutely certain*, that the original breeds if more than one, could not have been numerous. This, therefore, must necessarily exclude all objections, drawn prior to experience; and experience itself has frequently proved it to be highly beneficial. I have already mentioned a valuable cross, where richness of cream is preferred, between the Alderney Cow and improved Short Horned Bull. I have seen morever, both Devons, Herefords, Lancashire, and Scots, all crossed with these Bulls, and all producing very valuable Stock. In Linconshire also, they are beginning to use them very much. Since indeed the improved Short Horned Cattle have been in such great request, as they have of late, there is scarcely any breed in the kingdom, where individuals have not been crossed with them; or any county into which some of them have not been sent.

But it is proper to remark, that the object of every cross, as well as of every distinct breed, ought to be the attainment of an animal, adapted to that particular situation, for which it is designed; for what may be the most advantageous in one situation, may be unprofitable in another. And unless this observation be attended to, we can never reasonably look forward to success. For instance, though I consider the improved Short Horned Cattle as by far the best for the country at large, yet there are situations where I should by no means recommend them. I do not think that the mountains of Scotland could be better stocked, than with that hardy, nimble little race, which at present possesses them; while some of their more fertile situations, might very well bear a cross from the breed just mentioned; and some, the breed itself. On the other hand, scarcely any greater blessing could befal Ireland, than the introduction of the breed to a considerable extent. For land which is capable of bringing to any tolerable state of condition, a race of such hard, bad fleshed ones, as are generally found to infest that country, would be capable of bringing a better kind to the greatest state of perfection.

Nothing can be more contradictory than what has frequently been advanced by various persons on the whole system of crossing; the understatement of some, seems only to have called forth the overstatement of others; and interest or prejudice have rarely been forgotten. It would have been well, Sir, had some of these gentlemen attended to you on the subject; they would have been directed to an example where the result was likely to be beneficial, and their own reflections might have suggested many more. They would have seen also the idea of *the union of the good properties, existng separately in distinct breeds, without any mixture of the bad*, discarded on the ground both of reason and experience. In a word, they might have perceived, what they ought reasonably to expect, and what they ought not.

The reason I have been thus diffuse in the present part of the inquiry, is, that prejudice may not prevent a partial improvement, where a full and perfect one cannot be immediately effected; and to others an expense, which some have unnecessarily incurred. Several gentleman who have been convinced of the great advantage of improved Short Horned Cattle, have no sooner been in possession of a bull and one or two heifers, than they have wished to have more. On account of the demand however, it has frequently happened, that they have not been able to be supplied with a greater number for the present. To remedy this, they have bought up some of the best Short Horned Cows they could meet with in the market, many of which, as might have been expected, have not answered the end proposed. My advice, therefore, to such gentlemen, is, rather to cross the Cows they already possess with the improved Short Horned Bull; and gradually to get rid of them and their progeny, as the stock from their thorough-bred heifers continues to increase. By this means a pure breed would shortly be obtained; and, in the meantime, the rest, greatly improved. It would afford, moreover, an opportunity of comparing the improved Short Horned Cattle with the stock that had previously been kept; and conviction arising from experience, is always to be preferred to bare assertion.

It can scarcely be expected, that I should enter particularly into the praises of the improved breed of Short Horned Cattle, as it would have too much the appearance of extolling a race of animals because in ones own possession. I thought it would be better to confine myself to general rules, and to shew by what means the best of each kind may invariably be discovered. I have endeavoured moreover, to make the whole statement plain and simple; to divest it of every appendage which might serve either to disguise or conceal the truth; and to use that order which seemed best calculated to assist both the judgment and the memory. To this end therefore, I have treated, first of all, on the formation and improvement of distinct breeds; then, on the perfection of their shape, and the quality of their flesh; afterwards, on the comparative value of all, considered both as milkers and feeders; and lastly, on the means to be used for the continuation of the most important properties, when such properties have been once established. But in doing this I have adverted to several other particulars, which appeared to me to arise immediately from the subject, and to be in themselves of the greatest consequence. How far I have succeeded, Sir, in this part of my design, must be left to your superior judgment; and I can only say, should it meet your approbation, it will certainly afford me the greatest pleasure.

There is one observation I will make, which to many, may be of considerable use. In the course of my experience, when applied to for Cattle, I have several times been requested to send the smallest in my possession; when in point of fact, the situation for which they were wanted, was capable of feeding the largest Ox that ever grazed, supposing the animal to be of a superior quality of flesh, and in other respects good. And such requests I have *generally* found to be owing to the badness of the Cattle those particular districts, rather than to the inferior quality of the land itself. In such cases, therefore, it is clearly of importance, that the animal should be of a good size, as well as of a good quality; because when such Cattle are found to do well, that alone will serve to remove the unfounded opinion respecting the soil. But you, Sir, who have excelled in such a superior degree with your Sheep‖ and also in other respects, well known how much depends on

† It has before been remarked on the subject of crossing, that though the produce may be expected generally to partake of nearly an equal proportion of the properties of both; yet it not unfrequently happens, that some individuals take very much after one parent, and some the other. And hence it will follow, that the approximation above mentioned, may be accelerated or retarded by a judicious or improper selection in each succeeding cross.

‡ That *crosses are unnatural*, seems to be a phrase used by some, without understanding its meaning; and taken up by others without consideration.

‖ I suppose, indeed, had some of the finest animals, selected from your flock, been described to those who had never seen them, they would scarcely have given credit to the fact; while those who had been eye-witnesses, if unacquainted with what judgment and perseverance could effect, might have considered the production of such beautiful creatures, rather as accidental, than as arising from extraordinary skill in the art of breeding.

the animal; and that the soil is frequently blamed, when the fault lies wholly in the stock. This I have been proved again and again.

Nothing can be more just, than your observation, that the attention which gentlemen of landed property have of late years paid to the improvement of breeds of domestic animals, has been extremely beneficial to the country" Had no such improvements indeed taken place during the last fifty years, it would not have been possible to supply the market with that quantity of animal food which the present population demands. Although in several districts these improvements are chiefly owing to the professional breeder; yet it is nevertheless certain, that there are many other situations, where they must first be introduced by the man of fortune. For the common farmer, either from a want of money, or the fear of a miscarriage, will rarely be induced to try an experiment, before he has had it in his power to witness the result. In such places therefore, where the improvements in stock, are at present, either few or none; I think it would not be found a bad plan for those gentlemen who supply themselves with valuable animals, to allow their tenantry to improve from their own stock at a certain reasonable rate. By this means they would soon repay themselves the small expense they had been at; would possess a valuable breed, instead of an inferior one; and by increasing the property of their dependants, would afford to themselves an additional security for their rent. Nor would this be at all injurious to the breeder; for the more valuable stock is known, the more it is sought after. And its great importance can never be better ascertained, than by a reference to the late distressed state of Agriculture The extent of bankruptcy in those districts where such stock was to be found, was never any thing like equal to the extent, where it was not; other circumstances being the same in both cases. Whatever may be the real degree of success of each nobleman or gentleman in these undertakings; I think all may look forward to a fair remuneration; besides the satisfaction of conferring so great an advantage to their own immediate neighbourhood, and being justly entitled to the thanks of the country at large.

I remain, Sir, your most obedient,
And very humble servant,
JOHN WILKINSON.

Lenton, near Nottingham, 1818.

(Appendix in our next.)

Cheap food for that necessary animal the Hog, or the full value of a well known esculent—but just discovered.

To the Editor of the Easton Gazette.

March 1, 1821.

SIR—The intelligent editor of the *American Farmer* has requested information of the best mode of preserving pumpkins, &c. I have always found it difficult to keep them longer than till Christmas in any quantity, and should an unlucky early frost catch them out, three-fourths of the crop will rot on hand before the end of November, unless sooner eaten up. I have never made a tolerably abundant crop, but what they have plagued me; having been generally obliged, when they showed the first symptoms of decay to feed them, not as I would, but in profusion and waste, in order to save, as it is called, all that we could; when they are gone, this profuse feeding cannot be kept up, and the stock inevitably fall off. But I can inform him of a superior food; one that comes earlier, and may be preserved longer with the most trifling care; and that does not require as rich ground, or as much manure.

Many farmers of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and particularly of Caroline county, have long known the value, and reaped the benefit (very partially, however,) of a good crop of that well known vegetable, the Cymblin, or Squash. They have found them to be easily raised, not requiring more than two or three workings, and in tolerable ground, yielding a good crop—I have known upwards of six hundred measured bushels gathered from a measured acre of rich earth, in the course of seven weeks, between the last of July and the 20th of September. When a large crop is desired from a small plot, (it must of course be rich) prepare it nicely, and at the ploughing immediately preceding the planting, any time in May, lay the ground in ridges of 8 or 9 feet wide, and drill the seed down the centre of each bed, so as to be 8 or 9 feet apart between the rows, and to give single plants two feet apart in the drill. When they have leaves as large as a half dollar, with the thumb and finger nail pinch out carefully the little bud from the centre of each plant. This topping is easy, and may appear trifling; but is very useful. It strengthens and enlarges the stem, and makes it throw off runners horizontal and vigorous. In these wide drills, they are more easily ploughed or harrowed, and with a little training you get among them more readily, and gather them with less injury to the vines.

From the middle of July, the gleaning of the harvest field affords a rich pasture for the stock of hogs for two or three weeks. For half a dozen years past, my Cymblin patch has come upon the heel of my wheat stubble, and an acre and a half of rich ground has afforded plentiful feed for a hundred hogs and shoats from early in August till the middle of September, and made them grow handsomely during that time. They have been gathered and fed in the soft state, in which we use them as a table vegetable, averaging from half a pound to a pound in weight. About the last mentioned period, the vines commonly cease to bear in plenty, and the season of this food has been considered as ended. In feeding my hogs, I had frequently observed, when by chance a Cymblin had got too hard for them to get into, if I would break it for them, it would be at once seized with avidity; a preference being given not only to the more advanced seed, but also to the more solid substance of the riper vegetable. A warm moist week, towards the end of last September, revived the vines; they threw out new fruit, and ripened off a good set before there was a frost. During the month of October, I frequently observed some shoats, that were getting into every place, seize upon these Cymblins, whenever one was accidentally broken, and devour it. The 6th of November I collected all the Cymblins I could find for seed, and after culling the best, took the refuse to my pen of hogs, that were in high feeding on corn, and as I broke them by a throw upon the earth, they eat them up greedily. The most of the Cymblins reserved were cast in a heap in the garden. A few were taken out of the weather to enable me too see the difference, and to determine the best mode of keeping them. All in the exposed pile that got ripe, were still sound and in good eating order at Christmas. Those on the top of the pile, from the more immediate action of the frost and wet, had become discoloured, but were unhurt. Those protected from the weather, looked nearly as fresh as on the day when they were put away. On the 6th of November I weighed several—Weights from one and a half to four and three quarters of a pound. One month after, on the 6th December, I again weighed the same set—Those protected from the wet and frost for the last month lost only an average of a 14th of their weight—Those exposed lost very little more. The average weight of the cymblin, as fed in their young and soft state is about three quarters of a pound. The average weight of the ripe, is more than a pound, and a half, of much more nourishing food. On the 15th of January the protected cymblins were still in as good order as the day they were gathered. Those exposed had begun to look weatherbeaten, but were still good, and were eaten greedily by the hogs—On the first of February those protected had changed colour a little, but had not lost one fifth of their weight, and were sound, excellent food—Those exposed had been thoroughly frozen and were hurt. On the last day of February I took a cymblin from the under part of the exposed pile, and carried it to my hogs, that are in good order, and accustomed to a feed of corn morning and evening. The inside had become soft and pulpy, and I presume there was very little nourishment left except in the seed; the hogs however eat at once all but the hard, weather beaten shell.

The above statement of facts warrants the following conclusions. That the cymblin is an excellent food for hogs, easily attainable, and well worthy the attention of the farmer. That by far the most valuable part of the cymblin season commences at the time, when it has been supposed the whole season was ended—That they are excellent hog feed from the first of August till the last of January—That from the first of October they are much more nourishing than before; and that the ripe cymblin is as superior to the green, as hog food, as a ripe peach is to a green one for our own eating—That it would be best to collect the ripe crop towards the end of October, separate the perfect from the imperfect, and put them under shelter; a common fodder house with a little straw or corn husks under and over them would be all sufficient, and use the imperfect first—That they may be made in abundance, collected and preserved with less labour, care and trouble, than almost any other crop of any value—That in fattening a set of hogs, a plenty of ripe cymblins would be equal to a plentiful crop of acorns; and to those, who have not this resource of forest food, that full feeding of ripe cymblins from the first of October till within three weeks of killing would save in the common mode of pen feeding, at least 25 bushels of corn for every thousand weight of pork made fat; and that from the first of August to the last of January they will keep breeders and young hogs in thriving condition, without a grain of corn or any thing else, but attention and common pasture room.

In 1820, from the 20th of January till the 10th of April, by way of experiment I kept shoats, 6 months old at the first period, not

only alive but growing on 2 quarts of cut up ruta baga per head per day. They were in a close sty and could get, and did get nothing else, save water. And these same shoats made good hogs, averaging from 160 to 170 weight at the killing in the December following—A quart of corn per day during the winter will keep shoats of the same age not only growing, but in fine condition—The above quantity of turnips and one fourth of the above quantity of corn would, I believe, effect the same object Cymblins may be raised in abundance, and will, I have no doubt, keep young hogs growing and thriving till the latter end of January, and then the best season for feeding the ruta baga commences. The substance within the rind of the ripe cymblin appears to be equal to the substance of the ruta baga, and the ripe oiley seed will supply the place of corn—They are fed too with very little trouble, requiring no washing—no cutting—nothing but a little crack with the but of a hand maul after they are poured down at the feeding place. A good kind will have meat from a half to five eights of an inch thick, and the roundish sort without necks are most convenient, as one stroke will break them sufficiently; the long necked often requiring two or more. If cymblins be suffered to ripen they check the flourishing growth of the vine. The vines should be kept closely gathered till about the end of the first week in September—after which, unless they have been very much injured by trampling, they will ripen off a larger crop, than if they had not been gathered at all.

The same ground that will raise twenty bushels of corn per acre would ripen off a greater measure of cymblins, after having yielded soft food for a month—and if every other hill of corn was planted with cymblins as it was dressed with the hoe the first of June, the two last workings of the corn would sufficiently cultivate the cymblins; the corn would be laid by before the cymblins had run in the way of the plough, and an abundant crop of hog food for six months, would be provided at very little more cost, than the trouble of collecting it.—Nor do I see any reason, why they are not as fine cow food, as pumpkins or ruta baga—The hog has become famous as a taster, and from repeated trials by myself and others the fact has been over and over ascertained, that he uniformly prefers the cymblin to the pumpkin; and among other advantages of the former over the latter, it is not the least, that this food is less liable to waste, than perhaps any other. Mischievous cattle, sheep or hogs may get to your cymblin heap; but locked up in their to them impenetrable case, they are safe. The trespass of stock is immediate destruction to nice pumpkins, and unless under very safe keeping they are, too, ever moving off, and suffering transformation into mush, pies, or fritters; cymblins, like the acorn, though among the best food for hogs, are not subject to pillage.

A MARYLAND FARMER.

To take Mildew out of Linen.

Take soap and rub it well, then scrape some fine chalk, and rub that also in the linen; lay it on the grass; as it dries, wet it a little, and it will come out at twice doing.

PISÉ,

Or the Art of Building strong and durable Walls, to the Height of several Stories, with nothing but Earth, or the most common Materials. Drawn up and presented to the Board of Agriculture, by Henry Holland, *Esq.*

INTRODUCTION.

In the year 1791 a work was published at Paris by M. François Cointeraux, containing an account of a method of building strong and durable houses, with no other materials than earth; which has been practised for ages in the province of Lyons, though little known in the rest of France, or in any other part of Europe. It appeared to be attended with so many advantages, that many gentlemen in this country, who employ their leisure in the study of rural economy, were induced to make a trial of its efficacy: and the event of their experiments has been of a nature to make them wish, by all possible means, to extend the knowledge and practice of so beneficial an art With a view to promote this desirable end, the account contained in the following pages has been extracted from the French work, and it will be found to contain every necessary instruction, by those into whose hands the original may not have fallen, or who, being unacquainted with the language, may have been prevented from consulting it. The appearance of those wretched hovels which are built with mud in some parts of England, will perhaps dispose many persons, to doubt the strength and durability of houses, which are composed of no other materials than earth. The French author says, "The possibility of raising the walls of houses two or even three stories high, with earth only, which will sustain floors loaded with the heaviest weights, and of building the largest manufactories in this manner, may astonish every one, who has not been an eye witness of such things." But it is hoped that a description of this manner of building will sufficiently explain the reason of its superiority.

The word *pisé* is a technical term made use of in the country, where the work about to be described is in common practice; and it has been retained in this translation, because it cannot be rendered by any adequate word in the English language.

CHAPTER I.

Of Pisé and its Origin.

Pisé is a very simple manual operation; it is merely by compressing earth in moulds or cases, that we may arrive at building houses of any size or height. This art, though at present confined to the single province of the Lyonnese in France, was known and practised at a very early period of antiquity, as appears from a passage in Pliny's Natural History, book 34, chap. 14, which is exactly descriptive of this manner of building.

Mr. Goiffon, who published a treatise on Pisé in 1772, is of opinion that the art was practised by the Romans, and by them introduced into France; and the Abbé Rozier, in his Journal de Physique, says, that he has discovered some traces of it in Catalonia; so that Spain, like France, has a single province in which this ancient manner of building has been preserved. The art, however well deserves to to be introduced into more general use, the cheapness of the materials which it requires, and the great saving of time and labour which it admits of, must recommend it in all places and on all occasions; but the French author says, that it will be found particularly useful in hilly countries, where carriage is difficult, and sometimes impracticable; and for farm buildings, which, as they must be made of considerable extent, are usually very expensive, without yielding any return.

(To be continued.)

HEDGING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Brandywine, 12th 3mo., 1821.

Friend Skinner—The season is now present to pay attention to *Hedges*—A few *hints* may not be amiss to arouse the recollection of some who have resolved, but for the present put the resolution by, till "a more convenient time," and have never yet put the subject into practice—*the planting alone*—others who have gone a little further and planted, and for want of further care have neglected filling up the vacancies occasioned by some few dying by the dry season, or some other contingency, that all our labours are more or less subject to.—Their hedges have gaps or vacant spots, that have not only a disgusting appearance, but a serious inconvenience, as the vacant spots must be supplied by some kind of dead materials, uncongenial to the living; but if planted by the setting young quicks in amongst those so far advanced, they become underlings, and never gain strength enough to make uniformity in the hedge; and if they are filled with old stocks their chance of living is often labour lost.

The only way to avoid those evils is to never let the second season after planting pass over, without examining if all is living, and where any has missed or failed in their growth; if it is but a single one, never let the opportunity pass without substituting another in its place, & the substitute ought to have equal strength with those planted the year previous, or if they have stood two years without filling, the same rule ought to govern, to match the substitute to suit the first planted stocks

The present time is *important* (in our latitude) to plash and prune, and remove every kind of rubbish that is interfering with the growth of the thorn. Although it is a rugged looking shrub, there are others whose *influence* are too evident to admit a doubt, of producing disease, and even death if near to it.—The black walnut has never failed in a single instance that I have taken into notice—the evergreen cedar also produces a singular disease of first protuberating the small branches, and by a slower progress ultimately produces death (by what I should term a chronic disease)—The planting, or sowing the thorn seed in ground that has been occupied with *onions* the year previous, has also had the effect to kill the young quicks, after growing to some size—an

evidence of this circumstance, happened in (my neighbour) Wm. Armor's garden, in 1819. His thorn seed were planted in drills, for the convenience of nursing—and his drills happened to extend into a spot of ground that had been cultivated with onions the summer previous—and the thorn all vegetated with uniformity—and in the course of dressing them through the summer, he discovered when the hot weather came on, they *died*, every plant of them in the ground, that had been occupied with onions the foregoing season—the other part of his nursery grew as well as usual.*

I have no doubt of many other of our valuable products, that have such antipathies as to defeat many of our operations in the pursuit of Agriculture, that pass unnoticed by the most *attentive* observer, how readily must they escape the notice of the unobservant husbandman, that is plodding on in the path tracked out by his forefathers, without *presuming* to deviate either to the right or to the left—either in his routine of crops, or mode of culture. Not taking into consideration, the congeniality of one plant to that of another kind; consequently one crop to another, that is doomed to follow it whether friendly or unfriendly.

Those are important considerations—first as it regards the return product of our labours, and secondly as it regards the improvement of the soil we cultivate—the latter of those considerations is always accompanied with flattering prospects by bettering our condition with a more abundant share of the comforts of this life with less difficulty in the pursuit.

I have not been disappointed in my anticipations of the benefit arising from the "*American Farmer.*" Having endeavoured, previous to the existence of this establishment, to promote *some* kind of Journal or record of facts, that should not be lost to the community.—The very small portion that falls to the lot of one individual, to aid the great science of Agriculture is but like a drop in the bucket—but the aggregate notice if faithfully communicated, amounts to a valuable mass of information—that paper will be an interesting record.

When we find practical farmers relating facts with *fidelity*, there is mostly instruction. But where scientific knowledge is combined with practical experience, much more light is often cast on the subject.

But where scientific disquisitions prevail unaided by a sufficient degree of practical understanding of the subject, we ought cautiously to adopt, or place unlimitted confidence, more especially if we find *facts* called in question in support of theory.

We are so prone to make every circumstance in a case, bend to our favorite theory, that the true merits of the subject are often lost in the inquiry.

Having departed from the subject of the thorn and hedging, the only part useful to the community, I leave the residue, or latter part for thy own amusement, with esteem from

CALEB KIRK.

* A part of those quicks were sent to our worthy friend, Sir John Sinclair in Europe, although I did not think of mentioning it to him.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

What can be substituted for Clover and Plaster, where the last will not act?

MR. SKINNER,

I am one of those, who as a farmer, feels and acknowledges himself more indebted to the able and excellent author of *Arator*, than to any other native or foreign writer on Agriculture. I am sure at least, that his system is better suited than any other, to the thin light soil and arid climate of the southern states: where Indian corn constitutes the chief crop; where the clover husbandry cannot be successfully applied to one fourth of the lands; and where of course, other plants must be sought for and substituted in its place. That part of his book which illustrates and enforces the utility of *enclosing*, is perhaps the most valuable. It is vain to talk to the proprietor of an exhausted *plantation* of 8 or 10 hundred acres, of the necessity of enriching it with manure. While he acknowledges the melancholy fact of its poverty, and the absolute necessity of improving it, he will tell you that his resources will not enable him to manure it in half a century. He must look to other means of amelioration—and what are they? Every body knows the magical influence of plaster & clover in a soil and climate to which they are adapted; but in the lower districts of the southern states, I think that at least three fourths of the land is utterly unfit for clover. What substitute then is likely to be most useful? Some of the foreign grasses do well, but is it not probable that many native grasses, not *weeds*, may do still better? That plant, whether grass or weed, will be best, which is most easily propagated, which yields the heaviest crop of vegetable matter, and which, can at will, be eradicated by tillage. Allow me to suggest this subject for inquiry amongst your numerous and intelligent correspondents. For myself I should be obliged to any of them for information: more especially concerning the Magothy-bay-bean, which no body has so highly eulogised and which I dare say is so well known in the lower counties of Maryland.

X. Y. Z.

March 3d.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE POTATO

Morefield, Feb 18th, 1821.

MR. SKINNER—I had heard many years back that the best way to improve the potato, was from the seed of its own apple. About five or six years past, I made the trial—I gathered a handfull of the apples off the blue potato when fully ripe—I mashed them, and washed out the seed and dried them—In the spring I sowed them in drills—they came up very thick, having the appearance of some small weeds—In two or three weeks they put out leaves, having the appearance of potatoes—I then thinned them, and worked them as thought right—In the fall I had seed of many kinds, white, blue and red, of various shapes and complexions—I selected four or five kinds in the spring, and planted each separate, and found I had improved my potatoes very much as to flavour—and also, some of the kinds I selected was very productive, so much so that I planted no more of my old seed, and do still consider the change advantagious.

ABEL SEYMOUR.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

A cheap Stercorary, or practicable method of enlarging the Manure Heap.

Keep a small stock of cattle, which feed in a well littered pen, (made as comfortable as possible,) through the winter. Have a pen made of posts and rails, near your horse stable door, sufficiently large to contain all the dung and litter from the horse stable, until March, where deposit, every week, all the dung and litter from the stable, which always litter well after cleaning out.

In the spring, before you sow oats or plant corn, apply all the manure from the cow pen and stable pen, to the land most requiring help. Then draw into the cow pen, and for litter for the horse stable, the remainder of your rough provender, when it is sufficiently impregnated with the urine and dung of the cattle and horses, commence a stercorary, or manure heap, in the field, and to it, collect all the manure you can, through the summer, to be applied to fallow in the fall.

Common farmers are chargeable, with at least, two great errors in respect to manuring land, which can be easily remedied—The first, is keeping too much stock, and the second is, that they suffer their manure about their yards and stables to waste. If cattle are confined on good beds of straw, husks, &c. through the winter, and the manure in the spring applied as before directed, and all the rubbish of the treading floor, &c. afterwards passed under the cattle and horses, collected to the heap in the field, the quantity of manure collected in the course of the season will be very considerable. I have frequently been displeased on reading the opinions of practical farmers, (men of observation and experience) *that the more stock you keep, the more manure you will make*, when the very reverse is the fact, and I will venture to say, that if you will take thirty head of cattle, and provender enough to take them through the winter, and give me fifteen head, with an equal quantity of provender, that I will make, at least, double the quantity of manure you will, and I believe more.

An excessive number of cattle not only eat up the provender in the winter, but they also impoverish the pastures in the summer—they are turned out early in the spring, before herbage acquires any considerable growth, and the fields are kept bare and hard trodden, all through the season.

Scientific men differ very much respecting the proper state to apply manure; some are in favour of long muck—some in favour of well rotted manure, and although Dr. Muse has conceded the point in favour of muck, all my experience proves, that much depends on the seasons, different seasons will produce different effects. I have applied both kinds in different seasons, and have paid some attention to their effects, but I never could discover a uniform operation. But I would not recommend the application of coarse muck, to corn ground in the spring, as by our Maryland practice; it must be turned up to the surface, before putrefaction could take place; it would do better on oat ground, if the season should prove wet. But our great error is, not only, that we do not apply manure properly, but that we do not make it in sufficient quantity.

I have no chymical knowledge, and cannot say whether manure would be better kept under cover or not but I consider a stercorary, with a pump, a useless building. I have made many manure heaps in my fields at different times, and I generally found that the rains of the seasons kept them sufficiently moist, and I do not recollect, that I ever had any

manure in those heaps to suffer for want of moisture; sometimes, when the heap was too high, the unrotten straw at the bottom, for want of air, was taken up in as fresh a state, as to colour, as when placed there, though sufficiently moist, but this never happened when the heap was not too high.

A.

For the American Farmer.

Stevenson's Point, Perquimans C'y. N. C.
Jan'y 12th, 1821.

DEAR SIR,

While I am very much interested in, and improved by your invaluable paper the "American Farmer," I feel myself much embarrassed in my agricultural pursuits by an enemy, which has attacked every part of my farm, and the farms of most of my neighbours, compelling a rapid succession of crops, or rendering our lands wholly unfit for small or winter grain. This enemy is nothing more nor less than what we call the Wild Pea, originally brought as I understand from Ireland for pasture. This pea comes up in the fall or winter, and can stand any weather with the wheat; early in the spring we perceive it making rapid advances, keeping a little under the wheat until about the time it begins to head, then it runs up, attaching itself to the stalks of wheat, having little vines or roots for the purpose at every joint, resembling the grape vine in that respect; then it shoots above the wheat and forms a complete mat, and where thickest bears the wheat down, and entirely destroys it. When the wheat is not destroyed, it is rendered unsaleable by the mixture of the pea, which is black, round and hard, and about the size of the common bird shot, so near the size of the wheat that no riddle can take it out. I am told it is a fact, that when once the ground gets well stocked with this ungenerous adversary, it may be cultivated seven years in succession in Indian corn, and then a sufficient stock will remain to again, after one years rest, destroy the wheat Crop. I know of no grass better calculated to improve lands for Indian corn; it completely covers the ground, and can be twice or thrice cut in the course of the year; it makes most excellent hay, but if any of your numerous subscribers can put me in the way to destroy it, I will gladly get rid of it, and resort to manures and other artificial grasses.

While addressing you, permit me to observe, that my farm lies in the shape of a triangle, and is washed on two sides by the sound and river, the banks of which are from two to six feet above the common tide, and that I am losing, upon a fair calculation, about five feet of land annually on the water. I have tried brush, and one of my neighbours went so far as to make an experiment of a bulk head or wharf of plank and scantling, giving it a slope of about forty-five degrees, but all to no effect, soon undermining and washing away. This is a subject particularly interesting to me, and must be to many who live as I do upon the banks of wide water courses. If you will be pleased to make inquiry upon the above subjects, or give place to this hasty scroll in your paper, you will greatly oblige

Sir, very respectfully y'r ob't.
JON. H. JACOCKS.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

LAUREL SPRINGS, Montgomery County, Ga.
February 15th, 1821.

MR SKINNER,—I have been so much amused by the squibs and crackers of your friend, Jeremiah, that although illy qualified for the task, I cannot forbear attempting to answer his enquiries on the subject of spaying, which I find in your No. 44, Vol. II. I must first inform him that I am not a practical spayer, although I have once or twice, by way of experiment, performed the operation with success, and frequently attended when it was done.

Your sows are fit for spaying any time after they are two or three months old, except while they are forward with pig The best time is just as they are taking the boar for the first time, because then, the ova, or pride as it is usually called, is larger, more easily found and taken off.

Letter A represents a forked stick, sufficiently strong to bear the hog you intend to spay B B, soft leather strings doubled, one tied to each end of the forked stick A; the lower ends of these strings are looped over the hind legs of the sow, just above the hock.

The forked stick A, is then put over a pin sufficiently high to raise the hog from the ground One man should then hold the fore feet of the hog, in one hand, & the snout in the other, in order to keep the hog as still and quiet as possible; the operator then, with a sharp knife, makes an incision in the belly, commencing between the two hinder teats, and continuing it till it is sufficiently large to admit his fore and middle finger; with these, he is to draw the womb, (which lies near the spine) forward, (it will be easy to distinguish it from the intestines, though not easy to describe the difference in this communication.)

Now comes, what to me, was the most difficult part of the operation, viz: continuing my hold on the womb, and shifting its position until I had found the prides of which there are two, from the bigness of a garden pea, to that of an ounce ball. having the appearance of excrescences, very much resembling a large, seeded, white raspberry, being somewhat more ruddy.

Perhaps it may not be improper to add that one part of it appeared as though it had been slightly injured, and in cureing, had left a scar; this is called the fork from whence the womb branches off, and at the extremity of each branch, a pride is found, apparently protected by a thin membranous substance which partly envelopes it, and which should be left when the pride is taken off; observe, both prides must be entirely taken off, for if any part be left, the sow will have pigs though her litters will not be numerous.

After the pride is taken off, the womb must be let go, and it will return to its place; the incision must be carefully closed with a strong, waxed thread of flax or cotton, taking particular care that the inner membrane of the belly be well taken up, otherwise the sow will become ruptured, or what we call bussened.

In addition to facilities spaying affords for selecting our breeders, I can inform friend Jerry that I have by spaying old sows in the Spring, made good bacon the following Winter, when I was satisfied they would have died but for the operation, and I have sometimes been inclined to think that my spayed sows fattened more kindly than my barrows of the same age.

I shall not attempt to apologise, either for the length or diction of this letter; it is my mite; I could say mite, and I am satisfied that you will not cumber your paper with it, should you not think it likely to be of some use; and to remunerate you for reading it, (should it not be serviceable to your friends) I enclose you a copy of an old work which has become so scarce, and is so highly esteemed in this part of the country, that a large majority (among them, many who can't read) are really clamorous for a new impression, or as the booksellers say, another edition, with additions; if you like it, you can send me the third vol. of your Farmer in exchange.

And oblige
your obedient servant
JOHN A. JONES

The editor has an appointment with a sow gelder, to meet him on this day (Friday) at twelve o'clock at Bovally, to witness the operation on some sow pigs. It has taken him several weeks to find a person skilled in this *intricate* subject, and he has, moreover, to pay ten cents a head for the surgeon's services; whereas, every farmer ought to know, and to have one or more of his people taught how to do it. If any gentleman wishes to be iniciated in the *mystical operations of sow gelding*, let him attend at the time and place above mentioned. There is scarcely any kind of knowledge so humble as to be unworthy of acquisition, or so inconsiderable as not to be useful on some occasions.

Edit. Am Far.

CALVES.

Method of rearing Calves, as practised by an eminent farmer of Massachusetts.

"Calves are more easily weaned when taken from the cow the third day, than at a later period. My practice has been to take milk in a small bucket, add a little hot water to make it as warm as milk from the cow direct; then by putting the calf's head to the bucket, and the finger immersed in the milk, the calf will suck readily, and in a few days will drink himself; when you may give skim milk—add considerable water, and enrich it with wheat, shorts or good bran—the former is best, sometimes with a little Indian meal. In a few weeks the calf will eat fine clover of the second crop—(rowing as we term it). I then have two boxes a foot long, eight inches wide, and three inches deep, without covers, nailed fast against the side of the calf pen; in one I keep a pint of Indian meal, in the other a gill of fine salt, to both which the calf applies very often; the meal will soon require to be replenished every day, the salt every week, sometimes oftener. I then keep a bucket, or rather a shallow tub, that will not be turned very easy, filled twice a day with water, that he may drink when he pleases. I sometimes give a little flax seed in the meal, whole without cracking or soaking; 4 or 5 times every day a small feeding of rowing or fine hay is given, no more at one time than he will readily *eat clean*, and invariably keep the pen clean, the bottom covered with six or eight inches clean straw, and renewed or replaced as it becomes dirty. Oil meal, ground from the cake, after the oil is expressed, I have used, and thought (considering the price) it answered quite as well as flax seed."

Easy method of cleaning Paper Hangings

Cut into eight half quarters, a quartern loaf two days old, it must be neither newer nor staler: with one of these pieces, after having blown off all the dust from the paper to be cleaned, with a good pair of bellows, begin at the top of the room, holding the crust in the hand, and wiping lightly downward with the crumb, about half a yard at each stroke, till the upper part of the hangings is completely cleaned all round—Then go again round with the like sweeping stroke downward, always commencing each successive course a little higher than the upper stroke had extended till the bottom be finished. This operation, if carefully performed, will frequently make very old paper look almost equal to new.

Great caution must be used, not by any means to rub the paper hard, nor attempt to clean it the cross or horizontal way. The dirty part of the bread too, must be each time cut away, and the pieces renewed as soon as at all necessary.

To Prune Vines to advantage.

In pruning Vines, leave some new branches every year, and take away (if too many) some of the old, which may be of great advantage to the tree, and much increase the quantity of fruit. When you train your vine, leave two knots, and cut them off the next time; for, usually, the two buds yield a bunch of grapes.—Vines, when thus pruned, have been known to bear abundantly, whereas others that have been cut close, to please the eye, have been almost barren of fruit.

Excellent substitute for Table Beer.

As small beer is apt to become sour in warm weather, a pleasant beer may be made by adding to a bottle of porter, ten quarts of water, and a pound of brown sugar or molasses. After they have been well mixed, pour the liquor into bottles loosely corked, and place them in a cool cellar. In two or three days it will be fit for use; a spoonful of ginger added to the mixture, renders it more lively and agreeable to the taste. This might be adopted in the Navy instead of grog.

Chinese method of mending China.

Take a piece of flint glass, beat it to a fine powder, and grind it well with the white of an egg, and it joins China without riveting, so that no art can break it in the same place.—You are to observe that the composition is to be ground extremely fine on a painters' stone.

German Furniture Gloss, or Polishing Wax for Mahogany.

Cut in small pieces, a quarter of a pound of yellow wax, and melting it in a pipkin, add one ounce of well pounded colophony, or black resin; the wax and colophony being both melted, pour in by degrees, quite warm, two ounces of oil, or spirit of turpentine;—when the whole is thoroughly mixed, pour it into a tin, or earthen pot, and keep it covered for use. The method of applying it to the furniture, (which must be first well dusted and cleaned) is by spreading a little of this composition on a woolen cloth, and well rubbing the wood with it and in a few days the gloss will be as firm and fast as varnish.

Method of taking the rankness and disagreeable taste from Irish salt Butter.

The quantity purposed to be made use of, either for toasts or melting, must be put into a bowl filled with boiling water, and when the Butter is melted, skim it off, by this method it is so separated from any gross particles, that it may require a small addition of salt, which may be put into the cold water that is made use of in melting but for sauce: and though the butter is oiled by hot water, it becomes a fine cream in the boiling for sauce

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

ELMWOOD, March, 1821.

Dear Sir,

You inquired of me some time past, respecting the cause of rust in bacon, and I then mentioned to you that bad feeding was the principal cause. My own bacon having contracted something of this, has caused me to pay more attention to it. I will now give you all the information I possess; right or wrong. What doctors would call the proximate cause of the disease, is the repeated melting of the fat parts, by the fire used in smoking, i. e. every time the fire is made; thus melting and cooling, will render butter, and indeed every concrete oil, rancid. And butter to which ice is *immediately* applied in hot weather, will spoil in a few hours after removing the ice, which would have remained sweet without the ice. Now, it is very evident that the fat of hogs, *not* corn fed, will melt with half the fire that would be injurious to better meat. But there are other ways of meeting the same fault, too heavy fires in a close smoke house will effect the same, even if corn fed But the points to which I wish to draw your attention are the two following

1.—Meat that is *perfectly* dry before smoking, will rust, when meat fresh from the salt tub will not; simply because the fat melts easier when thus dried than when dripping with brine and the meet will smoke in half the time, and with half the fire.

Those who have two killings of meat, will mind this, and it was in aiming to make one job in smoking of meat killed three weeks apart, that I met with my misfortune in some of the lighter pieces.

2.—But there is a more general cause, I think, than the above, and more difficult to manage. It is this—that in very cold winters, and especially in solitary houses, exposed to north winds, the meat will freeze, and if the fire is then applied, I believe the result will be the same as the butter, before mentioned; rancidly at the first using. Perhaps it would be well to let the meat thaw before any smoke was made, and in all cases too much warmth will be injurious, as well as too little.

Your's,

S. V. S.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

DEAR SIR,—In your paper of 9th March, I observed a short letter signed H, contradicting an assertion of mine respecting magnesia lime. I may observe that there is in his letter, more of contradiction in word, than in deed; for it is plainly inferred in the piece signed "Silvanus," that magnesia is an alloy to lime, and therefore, that *much* is necessary to get the benefit of lime; and though the word *much* is a vague term, compared to per cent. yet it admits the comparisons *more*—most. If, therefore, the alloy was more in the experiment alluded to by H, than in the British compound, there was every reason to believe, *without any contradiction*, that vegetation would be suspended, or not promoted. No agricultural writings speak favourably of magnesia, and none tell us whether it acts by destroying the good qualities of lime, or whether it acts on the earth, or on the vegetable itself. Your correspondent H, says it acts by heat. I should like to know his chemical experiment, or his thermometrical observation that determined this quality.

S. V. S.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

SUMTER DISTRICT, S. C.
2d March, 1821.

DEAR SIR—I will be glad if you, or some of your numerous patrons, can direct, (through the medium of your useful paper, the AMERICAN FARMER) a preventive or remedy, for the sore eyes in hogs, which disease raged among my stock the last summer, after a very wet season; and some persons thought it was occasioned by their eating mushrooms (of a poisonous quality) which were produced in great abundance by the preceding moisture—it has recently made its appearance again, after a wet winter, but I am unable to decide upon the cause. The first symptoms, are a great discharge of Mucus from the eyes, the balls of which turn a whitish, or pale blue colour, and in some cases produce total blindness *for a while*; the forehead and mouth becomes swelled, as also the feet and legs, the hair turns up, and the skin frequently comes off in sores. While on the subject of hogs, is there any preventive, or cure, for the measles, which prevail more or less every year; in many instances it is not observed until the hogs are slaughtered and cut up, when it is discovered, interspersed all through the lean part of the meat.

Respectfully, one of your
SUBSCRIBERS.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, MARCH 30th, 1821.

The Editor of the American Farmer to his Subscribers and the Publick.

The last number closed the second volume of this Journal. It is not for me to say in what manner my promises have been fulfilled, but if my subscribers be satisfied, I have every reason to be, not merely satisfied, but grateful. On this occasion I ask leave only to mention, that I was the first to break the ground, and take the field in defence and for the improvement of *American Agriculture*, without materials or resources of any kind, except my own early imbibed and heartfelt devotion to the interests of the plough. Heavy expenses were incurred, and the paper put forth, without waiting for patronage, or even the promise of it. I am proud to say that my exertions in the good cause have attracted the confidence and the support of very many of the best and most eminent citizens of the Union of all parties. Located in a central position, the American Farmer, registers the faults while it promulgates the improvements, which have been introduced in the systems of Husbandry in the North and in the South—in the East and in the West, and it addresses itself impartially to the interests of all.

I hold nothing to be more incompatible with the spirit of the Agricultural character, than *jealousy* of those who are labouring in the same field. The passion is even ridiculous in the eyes of men of good sense, nor should I care if a thousand more agricultural papers were set on foot, if I did not believe that the inevitable consequence would be that *all would soon fall to the ground*, or become spiritless for want of sufficient patronage. In all England I know of but one periodical journal on the plan of this, and but one in Scotland—experience proves that they cannot be supported—These two have endured for many years, and continue to improve in variety and usefulness.

It is not sufficient to ensure the good effects of a journal like this, that it should *barely subsist* on a *limited circulation*, like a common country news-paper. The publication, in this country, which is devoted to the developement of the means of internal improvement—to the protection of the interests, and the improvements of the Art of Agriculture, ought, of all others, to be *national*; the objects for which it is established being, emphatically of that scope and character. Such a paper ought to be supported to an extent, which should give it life and activity—which should warrant the Editor in sparing *no expense* in procuring materials of all sorts—such as engravings, foreign publications—an extensive library—a small chemical apparatus—an experimental farm—rare and valuable seeds—plants—fruit trees—domestic fowls and animals, &c. &c. I sincerely wish I had the means to conduct this paper on a plan, which would enable me thus to combine theory with practice, correcting the notions of the one, by the sober experience of the other. As yet all I have been able to do, by two years of *hard labour* and *intense application*, has been to accumulate a fine library—to establish an extensive correspondence with eminent agriculturists at home and abroad—to impress a conviction of the earnestness of my desire to be useful, and to have it in my power to give assurance of *improvement hereafter*, in proportion to the generous encouragement received within the last year. I can only say, that I am just now fairly under way in my editorial career, and I trust that my *friends*, (for so their deportement gives me the confidence to call my subscribers,) will continue to support me as long as I continue faithful to the trust reposed in me. I am well aware that the times bear grievously hard on the tillers of the soil, but that, I should apprehend, is the very time to seek for information on the means of increasing the products of the soil, to the greatest extent, and by the least expensive means; and keeping these objects strictly in view, I humbly apprehend that there are single essays in my journal, communicated not by me, but by my correspondents, or extracted from the books; which are worth the sum paid for the whole paper. So at least, I, as a farmer, should certainly consider many of them. The article on Pisé or dirt buildings alone, commencenced in this number, before it shall have been completed, will have cost me upwards of $60—But I have said much more than I intended, and my readers are respectfully reminded, that I do not often dwell upon my own concerns, as the only apology, if any, which can be made, for the present intrusion.

The Editor will continue to have furnished for his subscribers, without commission, any seeds or implements which may be advertised in the Baltimore papers; the money being sent for the same.

☞ Subscription is now due in advance for the *third* volume of the American Farmer, of which this is the first number. The first and second volumes may now again be had complete—in sheets at $4, or well bound at $5 per vol.—*Dont forget the advance for the third volume*

JOHN S. SKINNER, EDIT.

☞ At the termination of the volume, it always happens that some discontinue their subscriptions, and other are struck off for want of punctuality.—The Editor will consider it a great favour if those who continue their support, would use their influence to add some names to our list—to enable us at least to hold our own until times get better. The Editor pledges himself to justify their recommendation in the contents of the third volume.

Pisé—or earthen buildings—The present number contains merely the introduction to this interesting subject. It will be continued in the next, with engravings of the implements, &c. &c.—used in the operation.

☞ The Index for the second volume of the Farmer, will be much more minute and accurate than the one attached to the first volume; and we hope it will be printed, along with the title page, in about ten days.

☞ The editor requests the favour of some of his friends, to send him a few can elope and mellon seeds of the best quality.

☞ On the editor's stock farm, at Bovally, it is intended to plant an EXTENSIVE NURSERY, not of ornamental trees and shrubbery, but of all the most valuable FRUIT TREES. SEED will also be saved from the best granaries, and the most improved roots, melons, kitchen garden vegetables. &c &c. &c.

AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURES.

In a part of the proceedings of the Agricultural Society of New York, The Farmer's Journal of London, dated January 1st, 1821—makes the following comment:

"It is a curious and interesting fact, that a meeting of the New York Agricultural Society, was held in November, to draw up a memorial to Congress *in favour of protection to their manufactures*, by increased duties on imports. Their resolutions express their conviction, that "their agriculture and domestic manufactures are materially connected in their prosperity; and that the prosperity of the latter opens a home market for the other's produce." The inhabitants of such an Agricultural territory, could not be more at odds with their own interest, since the protection they aim at will at once raise the price of the clothes they wear, and lower the value of their corn."

There was raised on the farm of R. H. Rose, at Silver Lake, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, 1820, Indian corn, at the rate of one hundred and thirty-six bushels, shelled, per acre. It was the short, white, eight-rowed corn; and was planted in rows three feet apart; the stalks nine inches from each other in the rows. Rather before the usual time in topping, the stalks of every other row were cut off just above the highest ear. The tassels were suffered to remain on the other rows till the crop was harvested. The corn was planted on the third of June, and gathered on the sixteenth of September. It requires a rich soil.

The produce of a field of pumpkins on the same farm, was at the rate of twenty-seven tons and an half per acre. They were planted in hills, three feet apart one way, by six feet the other.

The soil in both these instances, was a sandy loam, and in fine order.

To stain Horn, to imitate Tortoise Shell.

The horn to be stained, must first be pressed in to proper plates or scales, or other flat form. The following mixture must then be used: take of quick lime, two parts, of litherage one, and temper them to the consistence of a soft paste, with a soap lye. Put this paste over all the parts of the horn, except such as are proper to be left transparent, in order to the greater resemblance of the tortoise shell. The horn must then remain covered with the paste, till it be thoroughly dry; when the paste being rubbed off, the horn will be found partly opake, and partly transparent, in the manner of tortoise shell; and when put over a fire, will scarcely be distinguishable from it. It requires some degree of fancy and judgment to dispose of the paste in such a manner as to form a variety of transparent parts of different magnitude and figure to look like nature. This may be done by mixing whitening with some of the paste to weaken its operation in particular places, by which spots of a reddish brown will be produced; that if properly interspersed, especially on the edges of the dark parts will greatly increase, as well the beauty of the work, as its similitude to the real tortoise shell.

Baltimore, March 30, 1821.

PRICES CURRENT.

Flour, from the wagons, $3 37½—*Whiskey*, from do 22 cents per gallon—Wheat 65 to 68 cents—*Barley*, 45—*Oats*, 25 cents—*Corn*, white, 23 to 24—Yellow, 26—*Cod fish*, per quintal, wholesale $3, retail do. $4—New England *Beans*, per bushel, $1 12½—do. *Peas*, 75 cts—Ground *Plaster* per ton 8 50, per barrel, $1 45, per bushel, 35, in the stone per ton, $6 50—New-Orleans *Sugar*, $8 75 to 10—Muscovado, do $7 50 to 9 25—American *White Lead*, $12 50—Ground, do. $13 a 14—*Linseed Oil*, 75 cts—*Feathers*, 40 to 45 cts.—*Hay*, per ton $16, *Straw*, do. $9—N. E. *Potatoes*, retail 50 cts. pr. bu.—Live *Stock* 5 to 6 c.—*Beef*, prime pieces, 8 to 10 cts.—corn *Beef*, 7 cts—*Mutton*, 8 to 10 cts—*Hams*, 10 to 12 cts—*Middlings*, 8 to 10 cts.—*Butter*, 20 to 25 cts—*Cheese*, 8 to 10 cts. per lb—*Tar*, $1 75—*Soft Turpentine*, $2—*Pitch*, $2½ *Rosin*, common 1¾—bright do. $3 per barrel,—*Varnish*, 25 cts. *Spirits turpentine*, 33 cts. per gal.—*Cotton*, good Upland, 13 to 15 cts. per lb—*Rice*, 3 a 3½ cts. ship and flooring *Plank*, $25 to 27. *Shingles*, best 6¼ a $7 com. $3 a 4½ p. M.—*Oak*, wood, $4 50—*Hickory*, $5 per cord—*Clover*, seed $6—Am. *Orchard*. grass do. $4—Eng do, do. or *Cocksfoot*, do. $8,—*Herds*, do $3—*Timothy*, $5, *Sanfoin*, $10—*Millet*, $2 per bushel—*Lucern*, 75 cents—*Sweet Cented Vernal* 150 cents—*Cow* grass 75 cents—*Trefoil*, 50 cents per pound—*Ruta Baga*, 75 cents—*Mangle Wurtzell*, 175 cents per pound—*Cabbage* seed, 25 to 37½ cts—*Cauliflower*, 75 to 100 cts. per oz.—spring *Tares*, $8 per bu.—*Peas*, 25 to 75 cts per quart—*Onion* seed, 20 to 75 cts.—*Leek*, 31 to 37 cts—short orange *Carrot*, 12½ cts.—*Parsnip*, 12½ cts—*Lettuce*, 25 to 75 cts—*Raddish*, 12½ to 31 cts—*Beet* 12½ cents—*Brocole*, 31 to 100 cts.—*Cucumber*, 37 to 75 cts per oze.—*Turnip* seed, 50 to 125 cts per lb.

No sales of Virginia or Maryland Tobacco the present week.

TO AGRICULTURISTS.

HORSE POWER MILLS for grinding Corn and Cobb, at one, and the same time, and for that use only,

Do Do Do For cracking Corn, suitable for Homany.

Do Do Do For cracking Rye and grinding Corn into coarse Meal.

The above described Mills are of three different kinds, and constructed on two different principles—they will be exhibited by the subscriber, at Baltimore and Norfolk, in the month of April next; likewise, his newly improved Corn Sheller.

Notice will be given in the American Farmer, the time and place where they may be seen in operation.

E BRYANT.

PUBLISHED BY JOHN S. SKINNER.